

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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MICHIGAN SENATE URGES FEDS TO WORK WITH SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS

(LANSING)—The Michigan Senate today passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 (SCR 26), sponsored by State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City), to memorialize the United States Congress “to work with the appropriate federal agencies in adopting guidelines on beach maintenance activities as defined in 2003 PA 14.” PA 14 was signed by Governor Granholm on June 4 and allows shoreline residents to groom their beaches and remove vegetation in the Saginaw Bay and Grand Traverse region without seeking a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

“The State of Michigan took a big step last month in hammering out a workable compromise on the contentious issue of beach maintenance,” said Barcia. “Now, the Congress needs to push the Army Corps of Engineers to work with the DEQ and property owners to bring federal and state regulations in line.”

Despite recent actions that have streamlined the federal permitting process for beach grooming activities, the Army Corps of Engineers has not adopted the new Michigan guidelines.

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“The effective compromise that was reached between the DEQ and shoreline residents demonstrates that a balance can and should be struck between environmental considerations and private property rights,” said Barcia. “It’s time for the federal government to follow our lead and take advantage of this opportunity to show they will work in good faith with property owners on the stewardship of our beaches.”

SCR 26 will now move to the House of Representatives where it is expected to be taken up when the House reconvenes on July 15th.

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31st Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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